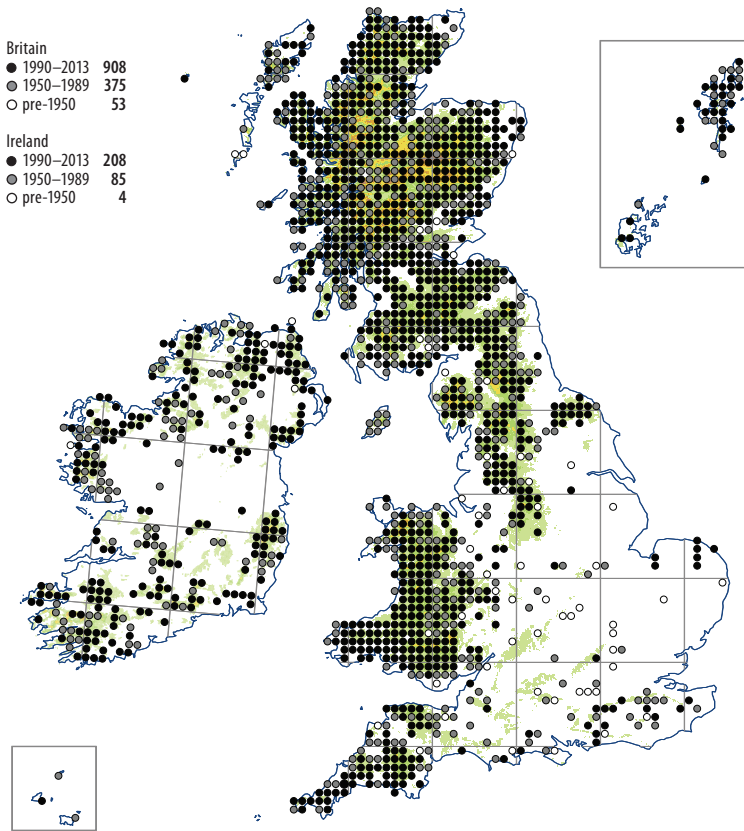


Pogonatum urnigerum



A pioneer calcifuge species of infertile, gritty or gravelly mineral soils and in rock crevices, and also on peaty sand. It is characteristic of steep eroding banks and landslips in the uplands and gravelly shingle by streams; other habitats include old footpaths, earthy wall tops, disused quarries, old soil heaps, gravelly roads and tracks, old sand and gravel pits, mine spoil (abundantly on china clay in Cornwall), and commonly on forestry roads and cuttings. On higher ground in the mountains it is found in gravelly screes, late-snow areas and on dry eroded slopes. It is found in open to lightly shaded sites, and is associated with other pioneers such as *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Ditrichum heteromallum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum* and *P. piliferum*. On and by forest roads it may be accompanied by *Diplophyllum obtusifolium* and

Polytrichum commune var. *perigoniale*. Altitudinal range: 0–1340 m.

Like *Pogonatum aloides* it is common in the uplands, but has declined in C England from the loss of suitably open acid substrates. Recent recording has filled many gaps in its distribution in upland areas.

Diocious; capsules are occasional to frequent, maturing mainly in winter and spring. In the Arctic it propagates by caducous leaf laminae, but this has been observed only once in a British population (Long, 1988).

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread throughout Europe, from Iceland and Svalbard south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa (Algeria), Turkey, Iran. Circumboreal, reaching the high Arctic, and extending south to New Guinea in SE Asia and Tennessee in N America.

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